Railway link in remote areas in Adivasi region of Maharashtra

433. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any proposals under Government consideration to link some villages/cities in remote areas in Adivasi region in Maharashtra State by railway lines; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof region-wise/district wise and by when the proposed work is likely to start and completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) For the development of such regions, a new broad gauge rail line from Ahmednagar-Beed-Parlivaijnath in Beed and Ahmednagar districts of Marathwada region of Maharashtra has been included in the Budget, 1995-96.

Final Location Survey to determine the alignment is in progress. Work will be taken up once the land becomes available. This work is expected to be completed in the Tenth Plan period, subject to availability of resources.

Collapse of Rail building in Dadar, Mumbai

434. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a rail building in Dadar, Mumbai collapsed on 21.10.97 killing 11 and injuring 81 persons;

(b) whether the building was declared unsafe and if so, the reason that officials were continuing working from unsafe building;

(c) the action taken against those not taken adequate steps to repair the building and reasponsible for the loss of life; and

(d) the action taken to give adequate compensation to the family of bereaved and injured?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. To ascertain the cause of this incident, Commissioner of Railway Safety, Mumbai Circle is holding a statutory inquiry and he has engaged an expert to help him.

(c) Senior Sectional Engineer and Junior Engineer in charge for the maintenance have been placed under suspension.

(d) An *exgratia* payment of Rs. 50,000/- each to the next of kin of deceased, Rs. 10,000/- each to those injured and Rs. 500 each to those suffered minor injuries were paid by the Railways.

Leasing of Airspace over platforms

435. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to lease airspace over platforms to private builders;

(b) if so, the reasons for not letting out the space by constructing buildings by Government; and

(c) the likely revenue out of offering such airspace?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) Railways have proposed commercial utilisation of air-space over railway structures/yards for raising resources. A pilot project at Bandra (Mumbai) has been identified. The expected revenue generation is about 500 crore from this project. However, a decision on this issue of Commercial exploitation of Government lands is yet to be taken by the Government.